

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 1922. Vol. 1. No. 21.

1. Newfoundland and Its Relations to Canada.
 2. Where Our Christmas Comes From.
 3. What Egypt is Like in 1922 A. D.
 4. Raisuli's Retirement Recalls Historic American Message.
 5. The Philippines: Uncle Sam's Far East.
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A SCHOOL HOUSE AT BONTOC, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

The Bontoc Igorots, one of the primitive tribes that survived in some parts of the islands, laid most of the stone and brick. (See Bulletin No. 5.)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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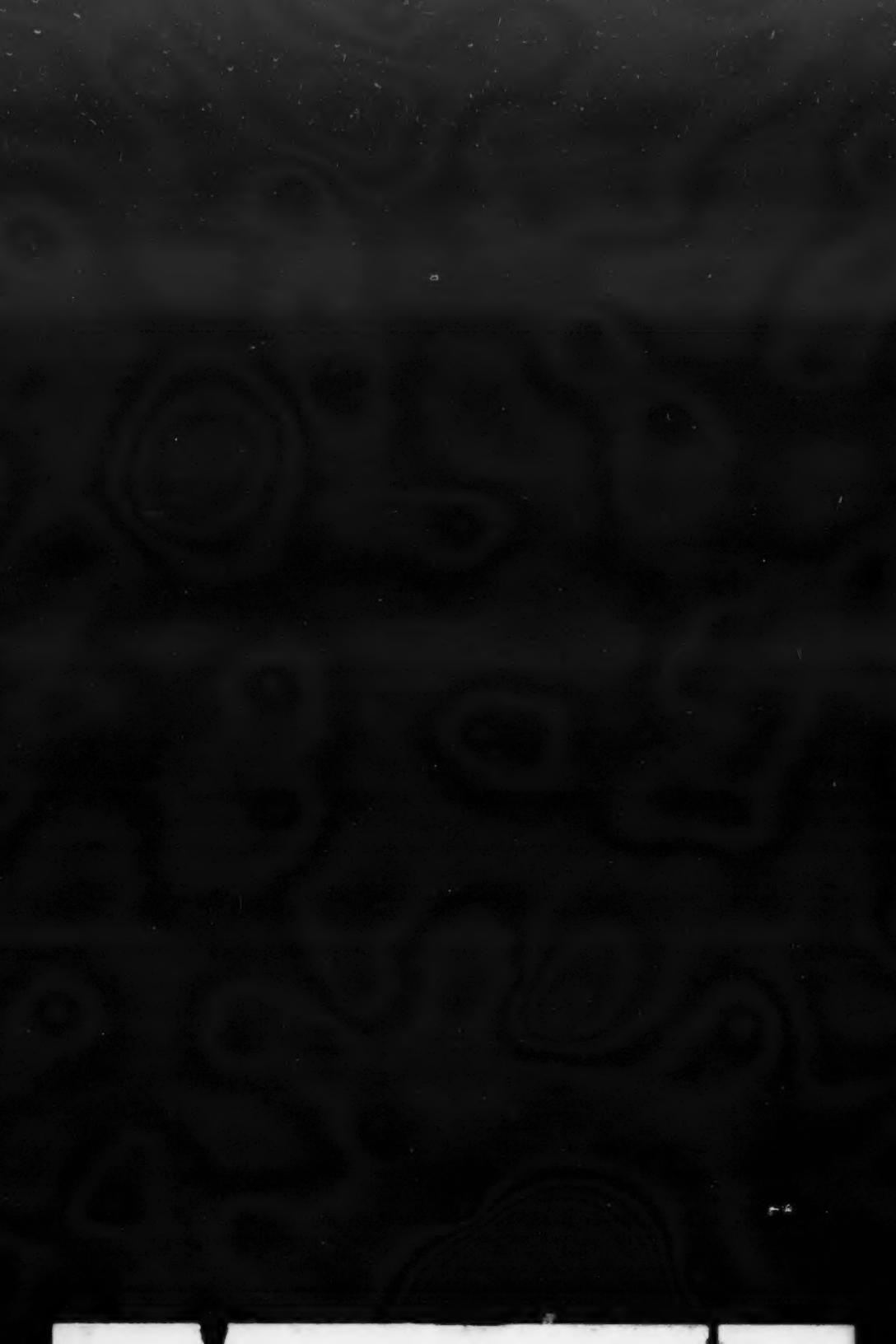
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Newfoundland and Its Relations to Canada

RENEWED discussion by the neighbors of the United States to the north regarding the desirability of Newfoundland's becoming a part of the Dominion of Canada raises a point upon which probably many Americans are hazy—that there are two distinct British realms, not one, in the portion of North America above the Canadian border.

Sentiment plays its part in history and historic geography, and the fact that Newfoundland has insisted on standing alone while all the other British possessions of North America have united to form the Dominion of Canada is partly due to the pride that Newfoundlanders have always had in being able to boast that theirs is "the senior British colony"—the first of the children of the motherland to make its home beyond the seas.

Newfoundland had its settlements as early as the seventeenth century and was a full-fledged British colony with a governor when Canada was New France, South Africa was in the hands of the Dutch, and not a single white settler had landed in Australia.

Across Canada's Front Door

Newfoundland has a geographical position of great importance, for it largely blocks the broad gulf into which the St. Lawrence River widens, and which forms Canada's front door from Europe. Moreover Newfoundland is the closest part of North America to the British Isles, being only 1,640 miles from Ireland. It is natural that the first trans-Atlantic cable should have been laid to the shores of Newfoundland in 1858 and that out of seventeen cables now crossing the north Atlantic eleven first touch American soil either on Newfoundland or its neighboring islets. And when in 1919 aeroplanes finally conquered the Atlantic it was from Newfoundland that both the American and British machines took off.

Newfoundland has an area of more than 42,000 square miles, and is therefore practically half the size of Great Britain. Excepting only Cuba, which barely exceeds it in size, it is the largest island of the Western Hemisphere outside polar waters. With its cliffs of brown stone rising 200 to 300 feet, broken here and there by deep fjords and bays, Newfoundland has a bleak and barren appearance which belies conditions in many parts of the rolling, timbered interior. Along a number of the streams are fertile valleys in which agriculture and stock-raising flourish.

The Story in One Word: Fish

In late years mining, stock-raising, the manufacture of wood-pulp and news print paper, and a number of other industries have been developed in Newfoundland, but throughout its more than 400 years of history the central story of the island might be told in one word: fish. Boston and Massachusetts have felt deeply indebted to their "sacred cod," but after all that important creature came from the Newfoundland bank; and however valuable it has been to New England, it has meant much more to Newfoundland and through Newfoundland to Great Britain.

Bulletin No. 1, December 18, 1922 (over).



Photograph by Thomas E. Dwyer. © American Geographical Society.

BREAD MARKET OUTSIDE THE CITY GATE IN TANGIER

The empty grain baskets are put to a practical use. Note that some of the women can scarcely be distinguished from heaps of rags. (See Bulletin No. 4.)

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Where Our Christmas Comes From

PARADOXICALLY, much of our Christmas celebration is many centuries older than the event the day commemorates.

On Christmas morn expectant Miss Five-year-old will spring from a brass bedstead as her father flashes on the electric lights, and run to a darkened, steam-heated room, where there will be a Christmas tree, lit by tiny candle-like bulbs, strewn about with dolls, and sweetmeats and toys.

A retrospective spirit who broods over this scene would recall that the tree is a relic of the nature-worshipping days of our Aryan ancestors who saw in the spreading branches a harbinger of the outfolding of the daylight's precious hours. The candles originated with the sun-worshipping Teutons, who chose the first sign of lengthening days to give thanks to their Sun God for smiling on them again. The mistletoe carries one back to the Druids.

The accepted rites of Christmas day are a concentration into twenty-four hours of many ceremonials which our less hurried ancestors spread over the Yuletide season.

And Queen Elizabeth Only Received One Pair!

One might think that "Merry England" would lead the national procession in Yuletide festivities. But Christmas sustained a blow there when an act of Parliament in 1652 forbade any observance of the day, either in church or home. In the time of "Good Queen Bess" giving was thoroughly established as a Christmas custom because that lady let it be known that she expected articles of apparel from her retainers; a practice faintly suggestive of the "tribute silk" brought to the Empress Dowager of China.

It is even hinted in old chronicles that Elizabeth did not hesitate to say so when the gifts did not measure up to her expectations. It also is recorded that upon one Christmas a maid knit her a pair of black silk stockings; and henceforth she would wear no other kind. That obscure maid of 1561 unwittingly tapped the pockets of the American husbands and fathers for millions of dollars worth of "tribute silk" for Christmas 1922.

An epitome of the origin of Christmas festivities, or of the matter of gifts alone, would make a volume of archeology. Toys often are repositories of ancient human evolution, more significant than the faint traces of other milleniums dug up by the pick and shovel. Not an adult H. G. Wells, but a precocious Daisy Ashford, it almost seems, would be best equipped to write a history of mankind; for man's work changes with new conditions and environment. But he clings to his play. Toys, for children, are the tools which break open mental eggshells and give them the first contacts with age-old experiences of other beings of their kind.

Lack of Chimneys No Handicap to Santa

Back in Roman days, when there were no chimneys as we know them, the spirit of giving exemplified by Santa Claus had its beginnings. Now the apartment heated by a power plant several blocks away offers no obstacle to Santa,

A good case could even be made for the cod as a claimant for a place on the British coat-of-arms; for that lowly fish in a way laid the foundation of the world-wide British Empire. Before the discovery of Newfoundland Britishers were of little importance as seafarers. The great wealth of codfish which John Cabot's finding of the island disclosed immediately drew the men of the British Isles out of their insularity.

Fishing Trips Across the Atlantic

The next year after the discovery—1498—a fleet of Devon fishermen crossed the Atlantic and returned loaded down with fish; and from that time on for centuries the annual crossing and recrossing of the Atlantic took place. The British kings looked upon the voyages of thousands of men to and from Newfoundland as the best kind of training for seamen.

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VEILED WOMEN WITH A WORLD-FAMOUS BACKGROUND. (See Bulletin No. 3.)

The veiled women of the East seldom consent to be photographed. Even in the morning lands of history women are becoming more independent.

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What Egypt is Like in 1922 A. D.

KING FUAD succeeded to Cleopatra's throne. When Great Britain abandoned its protectorate over Egypt, and the Sultan of the Nile country changed his title to king, he became the first king of Egypt since the Ptolemaic regime.

The old Egypt of thousands of years ago is in many ways more familiar to the world at large than the Egypt of today. Pictures of its great pyramids and sphinxes, its columned temples and rock-hewn tombs fill histories and encyclopedias; and inevitably the reader's attention is centered, not on the problems of today, but rather on the evidences of a dead civilization.

Monuments Background for Hard Life

But aside from the fact that mummy hunting was for many years one of the leading private industries of the country; and that now convicts, instead of building roads, excavate tombs and temples for the government, the old monuments are merely backgrounds for a life hard enough to center local thoughts mostly on daily bread-winning.

Superficially Egypt seems a large country. The eye sees its color spread over a considerable part of the northeastern quarter of the map of Africa, and statistics credit it with an area of more than 350,000 square miles. But the real Egypt—the habitable part—is like a cord with a frayed end; the narrow valley and flaring delta of the Nile. Except a few scattered oases, most of the rest of the nominal Egypt is parched desert sand, gravel and rocky hills. Of its more than a third of a million square miles of territory, about 12,000 are estimated to be capable of cultivation, and a considerable part of this has not yet been actually tilled.

Peasant-Like Figure from Carvings

In comparing the Egypt of today with that of the dawn of history one is divided between wonder at the marked changes on the surface and the lack of change in some fundamentals. The Egyptian of today does not speak his old tongue, but instead, Arabic; his old gods are forgotten, and he has—with the exception of a small minority—adopted the religion of Mohammed. But in spite of numerous invasions, the blood of the great majority of the population has been altered hardly at all. Practically the fellahs, or peasants, might have stepped from the ancient carvings; they are but a fresh generation of the men who dragged the great blocks of stone into place to build the artificial mountains of the Pharaohs, or who dropped seeds into the mud of the receding Nile thousands of years ago, even as they are dropped today.

Egypt's resources are almost wholly agricultural, and in the agricultural scheme the millions of fellahs are the ultimate units. They work long hours scratching the soil with crude implements, or tediously raising water in skin buckets attached to pivoted poles that the thin stream may save their plants from parching. Taxes are heavy, and it is the lowly fellah who keeps the treasury supplied. Living conditions are very poor; mud huts house most of

though it be innocent of chimney, guarded against mice, and lack the nocturnal quiet the poet wrote about.

Summarizing a long and tedious transition, the Christian holiday we know is a taking over of the festivities of the pagan Yuletide, or "turning time," referring to the apparent rebirth of the sun. The Christian adoption of the same occasion loses none of this significance to the imaginative with the substitution for the sun of the Son who was heralded as the "Light of the World."

Though it is among the oldest, if not the oldest of our holidays, Christmas is not a holiday with indigenous footholds in so many lands as one might think, though, of course, it has been carried around the world by adherents of the Christian religions.

There is more sentiment, and less of the ecclesiastical, in the United States observance of Christmas than in European lands. In France the creche, or representation of the manger, is much in evidence in varied forms, and even cakes have sugared figures of the Christ upon them. In Italy a set of carved pieces, showing the Holy Family, angels, the manger, and perhaps the Christ Child in it, is as inevitable an accompaniment of Christmas as our tree.

Mince Pie Had a Religious Origin

Lest this employment of symbolism in toys and sweetmeats be considered sacrilegious, it may be recalled that our own custom of associating mince pie with the Yuletide had a religious origin. The choice tidbits therein were symbolical of the rich gifts brought by the Wise men to the Christ Child, and the aroma to that of the frankincense which they also proffered.

In Spain the toy peddler, flocks of turkeys being driven to town for sale "on the hoof" to housewives, and the giving of gratuities according to rather rigid custom such as our tipping practice, are three distinctive features.

Giant pieces of gingerbread statuary, cookies patterned into goat-like forms, and a sweet cheese moulded into many attractive designs, mark the Swedish Christmas.

Bulletin No. 2, December 18, 1922.



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A CHRISTMAS BOX FROM HOME WHEN AMERICAN BOYS WERE FIGHTING ON FRENCH SOIL FOR THE ALLIED CAUSE.

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Raisuli's Retirement Recalls Historic American Message

THE retirement of Raisuli, the "Moroccan Robin Hood," because he is too old for active thieving, recalls a famous episode during the administration of President Roosevelt, and a story of how a veteran Washington newspaper man helped make history.

It was in 1904, following his capture of an English correspondent, for whose ransom the Sultan of Morocco had to pay \$10,000, that the irrepressible bandit went after "bigger game" and kidnapped a wealthy American, Ion Perdicaris.

When Raisuli paid no attention to the demand of the United States government for the release of the two men, President Roosevelt promptly dispatched a fleet of American warships to Morocco, and sent the famous ultimatum to the sultan: "Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead."

How Ultimatum Was Framed

It was in connection with the framing of that ultimatum that a trusted correspondent of the Associated Press is concerned. Being entrusted with preparing a message for President Roosevelt to sign, Mr. Hay, then Secretary of State, did so, and, as many a public official has done, submitted it to his friend, the newspaper man, for his opinion.

"Well, it may be diplomatic but the Sultan never will know what you mean by all those words," was, in effect, the newspaper man's verdict. Then flashed the bright idea, "Why not say what you mean, and no more, Mr. Secretary: 'Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead.'"

The Secretary agreed. President Roosevelt approved. And so it happened that the sultan so far comprehended this succinct American demand that he abandoned the usual oriental indirection, and the result, while helpful to the victims, was exceedingly hard on the sultan. For to deliver the two Americans Raisuli had to be appeased with payment of about five times the ransom he demanded for the London correspondent, with appointment of himself as governor of certain areas about Tangier, and release of his bandit friends and imprisonment of some of his enemies.

The Captive's Own Story

Mr. Perdicaris' own story of his capture was related in a communication sent to The National Geographic Society by him shortly after his release. Mr. Perdicaris wrote, in part:

"I was at the time president of an international commission charged with the administration of the town of Tangier; nor did I imagine that I myself would be exposed to any immediate danger.

"We had moved up two days before this startling event to Aidonia, our summer residence, on the Spartello headland about 5 miles from Tangier. The house which we had here erected is an unpretentious villa overlooking the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar and surrounded by grounds some 300 acres in extent, embracing many varied features of woodland and of precipitous rock.

Egypt's thirteen millions. In the fields they wear little more than a loin cloth, and the younger children of the villages go naked. When the fellah is "dressed up" he wears a rough shirt and loose trousers.

One of Earliest Governments

There is little cause to marvel at Egypt's checkered history. A simple reason is that she began early. Here is one of the earliest places in which man lived an ordered life and left records of his activities. Some anthropologists, in fact, look upon central Africa as the place of origin of man, and upon Egypt as one of the first way-stations in his diffusion over the other continents.

After the long reign of the Pharaohs Egypt had its Grecian and Roman regimes which brought but few changes. Then in 641 A. D. came the invasion of the Saracens, from which time began Egypt's Mohammedan history. For a time the country was a province of the Arabian Caliphs; later it was independent, though still Mohammedan under the Mamelukes; and finally, in 1516, it became a province of Turkey, which controlled it first through a governor and later through a sort of hereditary viceroy or khedive.

Khedive-Sultan-King

For the third time Europe took a hand in the affairs of Egypt in 1798 when Napoleon won his Battle of the Pyramids. The British drove the French out in 1801 and turned the country back to Turkey. In 1869 came the building of the Suez Canal by De Lesseps, which has given Europe an ever-growing interest in Egyptian affairs. To protect European bond-holders France and Great Britain made a joint intervention in 1879 and for a while controlled finances. The uprising of 1882 against the Khedive was suppressed by the British alone, and after that they controlled finances without assistance. The government was in effect Egyptian with British assistance and with the nominal suzerainty of Turkey acknowledged.

When the World War began Great Britain established a protectorate, abolished Turkey's suzerainty, deposed the Germanophile Khedive, and appointed another prince of the family to be Sultan. The British protectorate has now been withdrawn, but instead of the former Turkish interest being restored, Egypt is set up as an independent kingdom.

Bulletin No. 3, December 15, 1922.

Note to Teachers

References to articles and pictures in The National Geographic Magazine concerning subjects treated in this Bulletin are given because many teachers wish to employ them for further study or for project and problem assignments. The following is only a partial bibliography extracted from "The Cumulative Index of The National Geographic Magazine" (1899-1922, inclusive). A limited supply of some numbers may be ordered from The Society's offices at the prices named. Those numbers marked with an asterisk (*) are out of print. Bound volumes of The Geographic may be consulted in any public library and in school libraries.

Canada: Great Britain's Bread Upon the Waters: Canada and Her Other Daughters. By William Howard Taft. Vol. XXIX, pp. 217-272, 56 illustrations, March, 1916. 50c.

The Charm of Cape Breton Island: The Most Picturesque Portion of Canada's Maritime Provinces. Vol. XXXVIII, pp. 34-60, 22 illus., 1/4 page map, July, 1920. 50c.

Christmas: Village Life in the Holy Land. By John D. Whiting. Vol. XXV, pp. 249-314, 27 illus., in black and white, 22 illus. in color, March, 1914. (*)

Egypt: American Discoveries in Egypt. Vol. XVIII, pp. 801-806, 8 illustrations, Dec., 1907. 75c.

The Resurrection of Ancient Egypt. By James Baikie. Vol. XXIV, pp. 957-1020, 46 illustrations. One page map, Sept., 1913. (*)

Morocco, "The Land of the Extreme West," and the Story of My Captivity. By Ion Perdicaris. Vol. XXVII, pp. 117-157, 24 illustrations. March 1906. 75c.

A Journey in Morocco, "The Land of the Moors." By Thomas Lindsey Blayney. Vol. XXII, pp. 750-776, 24 illus., 1 page map, Aug., 1911. 75c.

Philippine Islands, American Development of the Philippines. Vol. XIV, pp. 197-204, 4 illus., May, 1903. 75c.

Field Sports Among the Wild Men of Northern Luzon. By Dean C. Worcester. Vol. XXII, pp. 215-276, 17 illus., 1 half-page map, March, 1911. (*)

Ten Years in the Philippines. By William H. Taft. Vol. XIX, pp. 141-148, Feb., 1908. 75c.

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The Philippines: Uncle Sam's Far East

THE Philippines, 7,000 miles from the Pacific coast of North America, furnish at once the greatest stake and the most difficult territorial problem of the United States in the Pacific.

This is no tiny island territory like some of those that fly the Stars and Stripes in mid-Pacific, but a country of nearly 115,000 square miles—a greater area than that of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland combined; or among the islands, greater than the three large southern islands of Japan upon which the life of that nation centered while it grew to imperial stature.

This far-away territory of the United States is inhabited by 9,000,000 people of many races and different religions, less than a quarter the present population of the three most important Japanese islands. But the tropical Philippines with their ample rainfall and luxuriant vegetation are capable, in spite of their mountainous character, of supporting a much larger population than at present.

A Turbulent Land for Spain

Magellan, who sailed almost around the world, and whose name has been given to the famous strait to the south of South America, discovered the Philippines, sailing among them from across the Pacific in 1521. He was killed shortly afterward in a skirmish with the natives. Magellan, though a Portuguese, was operating for Spain but the Spanish were slow in asserting their sovereignty. They captured the native city of Manila in 1570 and founded the Spanish city the following year.

With only one slight break, Spain remained in control until Dewey defeated the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in 1898, but it was not a peaceful possession. The Dutch attempted time and again to capture the archipelago; Chinese and Japanese pirates made raids on the island cities; and in the sixteenth century a Japanese Shogun actually demanded that the Spanish governor of the islands acknowledge the sovereignty of Japan. The British captured Manila in 1762 and held it until the following year, but their control did not extend outside of the city. In addition the Spanish had to cope with the piratical Moros—Mohammedan Malays—of the southern islands, who were continually raiding the more developed lands to the north. Finally insurrections broke out; and it was in the midst of one of these that the United States took control.

Education America's Hobby

Since pacifying the islands, the United States has given the Filipinos steadily increasing political control of their affairs. The appointive commission which ruled over the islands at first under the American regime has now given place to an elective House and Senate, and five of the seven members of the cabinet are Filipinos. The Governor General and Vice Governor are still appointed by the President of the United States.

Education has been the center of the American policy in the islands. A very small percentage of the natives were literate in 1898. Numerous languages and dialects were in use and only a minority understood Spanish. It was determined

Raid Made by Armed Natives

"One evening we had gathered in the drawing-room directly after dinner, when we were startled by loud screams from the servant's quarters. Followed by my stepson, Mr. Cromwell Varley, whose wife and two daughters, just home from school at Geneva, completed, with Mrs. Perdicaris, our family circle, I rushed down a passage leading to the servant's hall, where I came upon a crowd of armed natives.

"Even then we did not realize our danger, but thought these intruders might be a party from a neighboring village. Our night guards were supplied from this hamlet, and we supposed that they, like ourselves, had rushed in to learn the cause of the uproar.

"As I turned to inquire of these natives who crowded about me as to what had occurred, I saw some of our European servants already bound and helpless and, at the same moment, we ourselves were assailed by these intruders, who struck us with their rifles. At the same instant our hands were roughly twisted and bound behind our backs with stout palmetto cords that cut like knives.

Sharp Skirmish With Those Who Resist

"Varley, who made a fierce resistance, was handled with more violence. Indeed I thought the rifle blows would split his head, while his hand was cut to make him let go his hold upon one of the gang, whom he almost strangled.

"At this moment the housekeeper, hearing our voices, rushed across the hall from her dining-room, where she had locked herself in, and, just as we were driven out of doors, we saw a blow aimed at her head and she fell to the floor. This was the last we saw, then, of any one in the house where I have never since set foot.

"Once outside, our assailants endeavored to drive us down to the stables, but we managed to make our way toward a guard-house, where a couple of government soldiers were stationed rather as gatekeepers to attend visitors than for any purpose of defense.

"I Am Raisuli! The Raisuli!"

"By a lamp in front of this building we saw our guards, our gardeners, and other native servants under cover of the rifles of another party of mountaineers, while a little apart stood their leader, a man of fine presence, attired in the handsome dress worn by the native gentry. One of my men was reproaching this personage bitterly for this unprovoked aggression.

"The leader of the mountaineers raised his hand and, in low but emphatic tones, declared that if no rescue were attempted nor any disturbance made, no harm would befall us and in a few weeks we should be safely back among our people, adding, 'I am Raisuli! The Raisuli!'—this, as I afterward discovered, being his clan appellation, since this chereef, or native nobleman, is known among his own followers as Mulai Ahmed ben Mohammed, the Raisuli.

"Approaching him, bound as I was and in evening dress, I said to him in Arabic, 'I know you by name, Raisuli, and I accept your safe conduct, but we cannot go with you thus. We must have our overcoats, hats, and boots."

"Which of your servants shall I have released to return to the house for what you require?" replied Raisuli.

"I selected Bourzin, the younger of the guards, on duty that evening. On indicating Bourzin, his bonds were cut and he was released; but as he did not immediately reappear, Raisuli became impatient; still he allowed another of my servants, a Spaniard, also to be released, who quickly executed his commission.

"As Mrs. Perdicaris endeavored to join us, one of the mountaineers, seizing her, threw her violently backward, down a half flight of stone steps onto the pavement, while Mrs. Varley was pitched on top of her.

"Needless to say, the ladies waited in vain for our return, and when at last they ventured out onto the pergola all was silent. We had disappeared."

to make English the common language and to open the necessary public schools to reach the great mass of children. By 1917 more than 4,000 primary schools were in operation in charge of 13,377 Filipino and 417 American teachers. About half the estimated total of the children of the islands—600,000—were enrolled in that year. By 1920 the enrollment had reached 791,626.

Rope Users Pay Tribute to Islands

The trade of the Philippines has increased tremendously since 1899. In that year the combined total of exports and imports was \$32,000,000; in 1917 the total was \$161,000,000. Nearly every man in the world who uses a rope pays tribute to the Philippines, for "Manila hemp" is one of the best rope materials known. It is harvested from a species of banana tree. Nearly \$47,000,000 worth of it was shipped in 1917. Coconut products—"meat" and oil—come second. Much of America's butter substitute is made from Philippine coconut oil. Shipments in 1917 amounted to \$20,000,000. As a producer of sugar, the Philippines cannot yet be compared with the famous "sugar isles," Cuba and Java, but its production entitles the group to be classed with Hawaii, Porto Rico and Formosa among the world's sweeteners.

The Philippines might be said to be a jagged land both vertically and horizontally. They are very mountainous and their coasts are much indented. Though only about one-twenty-fifth the area of the United States exclusive of Alaska, the Philippines have a coast line twice as great.

Commercially, Manila, on a commodious bay and with a good harbor, has an excellent strategic position. It is a sort of oriental center, less than a thousand miles from important Chinese ports and less than 1,500 miles from southern Japan, southern Korea, Singapore and the ports of the Dutch East Indies. It is estimated that within a radius of 3,500 miles of Manila live three-quarters of a billion inhabitants—more than a third of the total population of the earth.

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A CARAVAN ARRIVING AT TANGIER. (See Bulletin No. 4.)

